GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:296
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2007
GUIDELINES FOR WOOD BASED INDUSTRIES
Sarma Dr. Arun Kumar;Singh Deo Smt. Sangeeta Kumari

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government has formulated/proposes to formulate any regulation/ guidelines for environmental/forestry clearance to wood-based industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received proposals from State Governments seeking environmental/forestry clearance to such industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(e) whether the Supreme Court had issued any instructions in this regard, particularly in the context of the North-Eastern States; and

(f) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement Referred To In Reply To Parts (A) To (F) Of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 296 For Reply On 19.03.2007 Asked By Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo And Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma Regarding Guidelines For Wood Based Industries

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Environmental Clearance: The Central Government has notified Environmental Impact Assessment Notification on 14th September, 2006 under which Pulp and paper industries excluding manufacturing of paper from waste paper and manufacture of paper from ready pulp without bleaching (Item 5
(i) of the scheduled of the Notification) and Wood based / Biomass based Thermal Power Plant (Item (d) of the Schedule of the Notification) are required to seek prior environment clearance.

Forestry Clearance: The Central Government has enacted the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 under which prior approval of Central Government is required in case any forest land is to be diverted for any non-forestry purpose. Wood based industries are non-forestry activities in this context.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Environment Clearance: Only two wood based projects were received for Environment Clearance during the last 2 years, the clearance for which has already been accorded. A list is at Annexure −I.

Forestry Clearance: A statement showing the cases of wood based industries for forestry clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 received during the period from 25.10.1980 to 13.03.2007 are given at Annexure − II, alongwith their status state-wise.

(e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has passed orders dated 12.12.96, 4.3.97, 15.1.98, 12.5.2001 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/95 regarding working of wood based industries in North-Eastern States and transportation of timber and timber products. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/95 further directed vide its order dated 29.10.2002 that unlicensed wood based industries in all the States/UTs shall be closed and no unit of saw-mills, veneer or plywood shall be allowed to be opened without the prior permission of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC).

(f) The orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court have been complied with and the industrial estates have been created in all the North-Eastern States for the relocation of wood based industries, as mentioned in the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 15.1.1998.

Annexure −I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 296 FOR REPLY ON 19.03.2007 ASKED BY SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO AND DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA REGARDING GUIDELINES FOR WOOD BASED INDUSTRIES.

Wood based projects accorded Environment Clearance during the last two years

(i) Revival and Upgrading of Pulp & Paper Mill form 33,000 TPA to 66,000 TPA at Tuli, district Mokokchung, Nagaland by M/s Nagaland Pulp and Paper Co. Ltd. (NPPCL).

(ii) Expansion of paper production from 2, 05,000 to 2, 45,000 MTPA and production of 45,000 MTPA market pulp at Kagithampuram, Karur, Tamil Nadu by M/s Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Ltd.

Annexure Reffered To In Reply To Part (D) Of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 296 For Reply On 19.03.2007 Asked By Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo And Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma Regarding Guidelines For Wood Based Industries.